

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th April 1903.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Ahsan-ul-Akhbar* [Calcutta] of the 17th April has the following:—

AHSAN-UL-AKHBAR,  
April 17th, 1903.

Lord Curzon on the corruption  
of the Turkish officers.

In his book on Persia Lord Curzon has strongly condemned the practice of bribe-taking to which the servants of the Turkish Government are addicted. It was probably in Turkey that he first saw people taking bribes. He is now older and has seen people of various characters. As the ruler of a vast Empire like India, he has seen a number of cases where the servants of the British Government have shown themselves equally open to corruption. The experience gained by him during his official career has left no doubt in his mind that it is impossible for any Government to entirely abolish bribery. It behoves Lord Curzon therefore to withdraw his above remark.

2. The same paper is sorry that the existing relations between the Government of India and the Amir lead every one to believe that at no distant time they may assume a critical form. The Amir was not allowed to take

AHSAN-UL-AKHBAR.

Relations between the British  
Government and the Amir.

through India the arms and ammunition which he recently imported from Europe. A large number of British troops has been collected on the North-Western frontier, while Lord Kitchener is busily engaged in examining the different forts and military posts there. The Indians are looking at these things with fear.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April is sorry to hear of the arrest of Colonel Yate by Afghan soldiers, a conduct which raises very grave doubts about the fidelity of the Amir to the British Government. It

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
April 20th, 1903.

The arrest of Colonel Yate by  
Afghan soldiers.

did not become the Amir to arrest an English officer simply because he unknowingly got within the boundaries of his dominions. He ought to know that he owes his throne to the favour of the British Government. A handsome allowance and arms and ammunition are given to him by the English simply out of favour. Under these circumstances he ought to release Colonel Yate with honour.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

4. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—Rana Ranjit Singh

PRATIJNA,  
April 15th, 1903.

Rana Ranjit Singh Bahadur of  
Sinhapur and the Commissioner of  
Police, Calcutta.

Bahadur of Sinhapur has always been on friendly terms with the British Government. The Rana Saheb has for some months past been travelling in various parts of India; and when he came to Calcutta, he was received with due honour by Mr. Bignell, Commissioner of Police. The Rana Saheb was putting up at 4 Rupchand Roy's Street. On the 30th September 1902, the Commissioner of Police sent Inspector Syed Muhammad Ali to the Rana Saheb, requesting him to send through the Inspector any papers, bearing the mark or signature of any high British official, that might be with him. Accordingly, the Rana Saheb sent ten letters, testifying to his friendly relationship with the British Government; and Inspector Muhammad Ali granted a proper acknowledgment of the receipt of the same. Again, on 2nd October following, the same Inspector was sent by the Commissioner of Police, and, according to a request, was entrusted with eight more letters together with a receipt-book which were also properly acknowledged. On the 27th November following, the Rana Saheb wrote to the Commissioner of Police, requesting him to return the abovementioned 18 letters and the receipt-book. No reply came. Then, on the 22nd January 1903, the request was repeated; but to no effect. The second letter was duly registered at the Sham Bazar Post-office, and so it may be presumed that there has been no miscarriage thereof. We understand that the letters and the receipt-book have not as yet been returned to the Rana Saheb; and this seems to us to be very strange.

5. The *Rangpur Dik Prakash* [Rangpur] of the 16th April says that recently one night some *budmashes* entered into the cowshed of an inhabitant of Kakina, Rangpur, flayed three cows alive and went away with the

RANGPUR DIK-  
PRAKASH,  
April 16th, 1903.

Flaying alive of cows in Kakina,  
Rangpur district.



skins. A rise of the hide market has induced some Musalmans of the worst character to adopt such inhuman means to secure skins. This crime should be put down with a strong hand.

SANJIVANI,  
April 16th, 1903.

6. In continuation of what has been appearing about the oppressiveness of the chaukidari-tax, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 16th April says that the incidence of the chaukidari-tax in the Kedarpur pargana in the Midnapore district is unequal, those who are in the good graces of the punchayet being assessed to a lower sum than others in worse circumstances. This has been felt as oppressive by the villagers. Then, even the poorest villagers, having no means to support themselves, are made to pay the tax.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper publishes a letter from Pabna, which says that cases of theft have increased there of late, and the local police seem unable to cope with the evil. The correspondent mentions four cases that occurred in Sadar Bazar during the last two months—all in shops having masonry walls, which were broken through. In one case—that in the shop of Bipin Chandra Pal—the owner of the stolen articles circulated serious threats of vengeance; and two days after the theft, the articles were found in an old house close by. A wrapper, evidently belonging to one of the thieves, was also found there; the washerman's mark on it was distinct, yet the police could not find any clue. In another case, that in the shop of Nimai Chandra Shaha, stolen articles, worth about Rs. 150, were found in the same old house. The two other cases took place in two shops belonging to Bansi Agarwala. There were several other cases of theft, besides the four mentioned above. The facts that the cases occurred in Sadar Bazar and masonry walls were broken through show the inefficiency and indifference of the Pabna police.

SANJIVANI,

8. The same paper publishes a petition from Jadav Chandra Shaha, of village Jamtaila, outpost Kamarkhand. station Ullapara, in the Sirajganj subdivision of the Pabna district, praying for a personal inquiry by the Subdivisional Officer of Sirajganj into his complaint against Umedali Khan and several others. The allegations are as follow :—The complainant's sister, a widow, and three others were going to Navadwipa when the accused attacked them and carried off his sister by force and took her to the house of the second accused for immoral purposes. On the report reaching the complainant he, in company with some others, went to the house of the accused to rescue his sister, but they were all driven away. A complaint was then made at the police, but no statement was duly recorded. The first accused is a notorious character, and many fear to give evidence against him.

It is hoped that the inquiry will not be entrusted to subordinate officers, but that Mr. Marr, the Joint-Magistrate, and Babu Janaki Nath Tewari, the Superintendent of Police, will personally hold the inquiry, inasmuch as the principal accused, Umed Ali, is a rich and influential man and is in the service of the zamindar.

HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1903.

9. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April contains the following :—

Ill-treatment of clerks in the office of the Inspector-General of Police.

We are receiving many complaints about the hardships of the clerks employed in the office of the Inspector-General of Police. It is said that Mr. Medlycott, Registrar of the office, has been taking advantage of the good nature of Mr. Dundas, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General, to do what he likes. The practice of the Inspector-General's office was to close at 4-30 P.M. on all week days except Saturdays, but Mr. Medlycott now makes the clerks stay till 6-30 P.M., 7-30 P.M. and even 8-30 P.M. He also makes most of the assistants attend office on holidays. Such ill-treatment of the clerks was never heard of under Mr. Medlycott's predecessors. Mr. Medlycott is also said to use such abusive terms to his clerks as 'damn,' 'fool,' *गर्ज* (mean fellow) Clerks in a Government office expect fixed and regular hours of work and polite treatment. Any officer therefore who compels the clerks under him to work beyond the usual office hours as well as on holidays and at the same time abuses and insolently treats them requires to be immediately brought to his senses by the authorities. If office work has increased, additional hands should be employed. It will do no good to kill



poor clerks with excessive work. The attention of Mr. Carlyle, Inspector-General of Police, is invited to the grievances of his clerks.

10. A correspondent of the same paper says that one day Settlement Inspector Daulat Singha, who is at present engaged in the work of the survey of taluks Govindapur and Bamungaon and mauza Amdiha in the Sonthal Parganas district, gave out that a sum of Rs. 21 had been stolen from his box, and tried to realise the money from the local *ghatwal*, but failed. A sum of Rs. 11 was, however, afterwards realised from the *ghatwal* through the efforts of Babu Narendra Kumar Ghosh, Deputy Settlement Officer, as compensation to Daulat Singha. No information of the theft had been lodged in the police, nor was an enquiry made as to whether the alleged theft had actually been committed.

HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1903.

11. The same paper says that the Police Commission has taken evidence only on minor points, such as the police officer's pay, &c. Questions of wider interest and grave importance, such as the constitution of the police, the relation between the police and the District Magistrate, trial of cases sent up by the police, &c., have not received that amount of attention from the Commission which they ought to have received. Unless radical reforms are made in these matters, it will be in vain to hope for an effective reform of the police.

HITAVADI,

12. A correspondent, writing to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 21st April from the Kaorhamal pargana, says: 'This year, too, some of the zamindar's men have commenced oppressing the raiyats for realising *abwabs* or forced and illegal fees on marriage and similar festive occasions. Our belief is that the zamindar knows nothing of all this. The raiyats ought to communicate with the zamindar on the subject, and failing to obtain redress there, may seek for it elsewhere.'

NIHAR,  
April 21st, 1903.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

13. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th April says that it is about two years since the Administrator-General's office was brought under the Government, and Mr. Hyde, Barrister-at-law, was appointed as the paid Administrator-General. A Deputy Administrator General has since been appointed to help the Administrator-General, and Mr. G. C. Roy of the Accounts Department has also been deputed to assist the Administrator-General in reforming and re-organizing his office. It remains to be seen what reform and re-organization are effected by the joint labour of all these officers.

BASUMATI,  
April 11th, 1903.

One instance of Mr. Hyde's unfitness for the post is afforded by the way in which extravagance has been permitted to go on in the office of the manager of the estate of the late Kumar Indra Chandra Singh of Paikpara. The work of the manager's office was much reduced by the sale of three-eighths of the estate to clear off debts. Yet the pay of the Sadar Naib in the office was increased after the sale. If Mr. Grey, the Officiating Administrator-General, or Mr. Roy had enquired into the duties of the various officers in the manager's office, the post of the naib or of the translator would have been abolished.

14. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 13th April says:—One Nur Bux was placed on his trial before Babu Upendra Nath Sen, Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali, and was ordered to be released on a personal recognizance for Rs. 50.

SUHRID,  
April 13th, 1903.

The accused was taken to the Court Sub-Inspector by a constable who, however, said that the accused was ordered to be released on a surety for Rs. 50. The accused could not find the surety; whereupon a jail warrant was made out, placed before the Deputy Magistrate and signed by him, and the accused was put in *hajat*. After 14 days, the case came on for hearing, and the accused was fined Rs. 5. Then the Deputy Magistrate asked the accused why he had gone to *hajat* at all. He replied he had been ordered to do so. Upon this, the Deputy Magistrate sent for the Court Sub-Inspector, who said that he had been misled by the constable who accompanied the accused. The Sub-Inspector also said that the mistake would have been prevented if the Deputy Magistrate had taken due care before signing the jail

Improper confinement of a man  
for 14 days.

The Administrator-General's  
office.



warrant. Now, we ask who is responsible for this unlawful confinement of a man for 14 days?

BUKDWAN SANJIVANI,  
April 14th, 1903.

15. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 14th April does not think that the matter and manner of "Vaijnanik Path" (science reader), which is prepared by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., and prescribed as a text-book for the Lower Primary Examination, are suited to the capacity of those for whom it is intended. Does the selection of such a book as a text-book mean that the Text-Book Committee are determined to sweep the Bengali language out of existence? It is evident that by introducing text-books, written in such wretched language, the Director of Public Instruction aims at confounding the intellect of the students.

16. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampini, in his Budget speech, said:—"Notwithstanding the facts that promotion to the High Court has recently been quickened and that a new grade of District Judges on a salary of Rs. 3,000 per mensem has been created, the judicial branch continues to be unpopular and it is difficult to recruit it. This is perhaps due to judicial work being less varied and more monotonous and laborious than executive work. A Judge is more confined to his office than a Collector, and it is impossible for the former to discharge his duties efficiently without a considerable amount of study and reading." We think, Mr. Justice Rampini has not said all, and that there are other reasons. Englishmen naturally love power; and this love of power is intensified when they come out to India on service. The District Magistrate is like a tiger—he roars, leaps, frowns, scolds and displays his strength. Compared to him, the District Judge is but a poor harmless cat. How the Sessions Judge, Mr. Lee, was humiliated and terrorised over by the young District Magistrate, Mr. Roe!

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 15th, 1903.

Mr. Rampini on the Bengal judiciary.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampini commented tersely and with moderation on the administration of justice by Sessions Judges in Bengal. Officers are appointed to officiate as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal when they are of little more than six or seven years' standing, and decide questions of life and death importance to the vast population. These young, inexperienced officers are lamentably deficient in those qualities which are essential to a good administration of justice, viz., experience, patience, penetration, discernment, gravity, impartiality and deep knowledge of the law. Moreover, they are quite innocent of the language, manners, habits, and social rules of the natives of the soil. Yet these officers are entrusted with our life, liberty and honour.

KHULNA,  
April 16th, 1903.

17. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 16th April says that the First Munsif of Khulna is given to using harsh words to his subordinates. For some days past he has been holding court with closed doors and nobody except the parties and their pleaders or mukhtars have admittance into the court-room. There are two doorways, one of which is absolutely bolted from within, and a peon is kept standing at the other to prevent people getting in. The other day, a mukhtar wanted to get in to present a petition, but the peon resisted him, saying "Let me have the petition, I shall file it." The mukhtar replied, "What if you do not file." What has the Munsif got to say to this?

HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1903.

18. Referring to the petition which has been submitted to the Bengal Government by the Calcutta Trades Association praying for an increase of the number of Stipendiary Magistrates in the Calcutta Police Court, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says that it is seriously doubted whether the delay made in the dispensation of justice in the above court is due to the smallness of the number of Stipendiary Magistrates. Formerly two such Magistrates always found it possible to do the work without giving rise to any such cause for complaint. Municipal cases have, moreover, been some time since placed in the hands of a separate Municipal Magistrate. It is therefore believed that the two Stipendiary Magistrates in the Police Court may, if they honestly try, manage its work very well. But will the Bengal Government be able to refuse a prayer of the European merchant community?

The question of more Stipendiary Magistrates in the Calcutta Police Court.



19. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April has heard many complaints against Babu Kali Das Kar, the *peshkar* of the Third Munsif's Court in Alipore, and warns him to be careful in future.
- An amla of the Third Munsif's Court, Alipore.
- PRATIJNA,  
April 22nd, 1903.

## (d)—Education.

20. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 16th April says that while even illiterate Indians can understand that the drawings in the large drawing-book, prepared by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., and prescribed under the new scheme for use in the 5th class of Middle Vernacular Schools, are not suited to the capacities of children of five or six years, the Director of Public Instruction could not understand this. Perhaps he had not even seen the book himself, but relied on the publishers' reputation, in making the selection. The selection of this book has introduced a new kind of cramming into our schools. Boys now soak a piece of paper in kerosine oil and a true copy of a drawing is easily obtained. This piece of paper is then placed on another piece of paper, and a pointed pencil is drawn over the tracing, whereby a correct impression is produced on the latter piece of paper. This is then pencilled over, and a copy of the drawing is obtained.
- Macmillan & Co's. large drawing-book in the 5th class of Middle Vernacular Schools.
- JYOTI,  
April 16th, 1903.
21. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th April publishes a letter over the signature of "Janaika Shikshak" (A Teacher), enumerating the grievances of the teachers of the Upper Primary Schools in the Bankura district. (1) The teachers are paid six or five months' salary at a time every seventh or eighth month. The result is that they are always in debt for the necessities of life. (2) In former times, the additional teacher or the second teacher used to be paid according to the result of the Lower Primary and Reward Examinations. This practice does not obtain now, and the tutorial work suffers in consequence. (3) The present remuneration is insufficient and ought to be increased, especially this year, when collections from fees are precarious.
- The teachers of the Upper Primary Schools in the Bankura district.
- BANKURA DARPAN,  
April 16th, 1903.
22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 16th April is sorry for the transfer of Dr. P. K. Ray from the Calcutta Presidency College to the Dacca College. It was hoped that he would succeed Mr. Edwards in the Principalship of the Presidency College.
- Dr. P. K. Ray.
- SANJIVANI,  
April 16th, 1903.
23. The *Ahsan-ul-Akhbar* [Calcutta] of the 17th April is sorry that Lord Curzon paid no heed to the observations made at a meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council by Mr. Bilgrami in connection with the recommendations of the Universities Commission.
- Mr. Bilgrami on the Universities Commission.
- AHSAN-UL-AKBAR,  
April 17th, 1903.
24. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April has the following in its English columns:—
- The Registrarship of the Calcutta University.
- PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI,  
April 17th, 1903.
- "The Principal of the Presidency College is saddled with too many duties to be able to acquit himself creditably as a Registrar of the Calcutta University, in which everything is rotten. It is no casual visitor, no leisure-hour counsellor, that can set right the affairs of the Calcutta University which are all in a muddle. Besides the defects connected with setting papers, appointing examiners, selecting text-books for which the Registrar is of course in no way responsible, there are flaws in the mechanical part of the business which requires looking after by the Registrar. A man who has already his hands too full should not be made to bear this additional and, at the same time, too heavy burden. Is the Calcutta University so very poor that it should ask an already overburdened officer to snatch an hour or two from his pre-occupied time to devote to its work? No wonder that a man who is led to believe that the duty of the Registrar is only a supernumerary duty on his part, should work with relaxed attention that cannot master all the details of University business. We should be glad if Kali Babu is made to continue in his present office.
- "Though under his regime we had to complain of the unheard-of omission to send the adequate number of question papers to some of the centres, yet we



are for giving a man who has grown grey in the service of the University and whose calm tenor of life, dignified deportment, sweetness of disposition, and predilection for educational work, point him out as the veteran academician who should be given precedence in these matters, a chance of redeeming the honour of the Calcutta University, which has forfeited the confidence of the people."

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 19th, 1903.

25. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 19th April says that Dacca must be fortunate in having got Dr. P. K. Ray as Principal of the Dacca College. But it would have

been a matter for greater congratulation if such a senior and able officer had been appointed Principal of the Presidency College, Calcutta. Dr. Roy is the pride of Vikrampur.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
April 20th, 1903.

26. Referring to the appointment of Dr. P. K. Ray as Principal of the Dacca College, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 20th April says that it is needless to observe that every native of Dacca will greatly rejoice at this

Dr. P. K. Ray's appointment as Principal of the Dacca College.

appointment. Everyone, however, had hoped that Dr. Ray would succeed Mr. Edwards as Principal of the Presidency College in Calcutta. But this hope now seems dashed to the ground.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 14th, 1903.

27. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 14th April says that cholera has been raging furiously in the town of Mymensingh since the *Astami* bathing festival. This year a large number of pilgrims intending to bathe in

Cholera in Mymensingh town after the *Astami* bathing festival.

the Ganges came to the town. Subsequently, not a small number came to bathe in the Brahmaputra. Formerly, these pilgrims were not allowed to enter into the town; and, in view of the outbreak of cholera in the town year after year after the bathing festival, this rule ought to be again enforced.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
April 15th, 1903.

28. A correspondent, writing to the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 15th April from Contai, says that extortionate

Extortion at a ghat in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district.

demands at the Pani Parul Ghat are being again made, and that poor and ignorant people, having occasion to cross the canal to reach the Pani Parul grain-mart, are consequently subjected to much ill-treatment and loss.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 15th, 1903.

29. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—In his reply to the Hon'ble Rai Tarani Pershad Bahadur's question in the Bengal Legislative Council regarding the means Govern-

Water-supply and the Government.

ment would adopt for a sufficient supply of drinking water in the mufassal the Hon'ble Mr. Collin said that any such local need should be met by local taxation. Now, want of sufficient drinking-water is a most grievous want. Government admits that there is such want; and yet when the people ask for its removal, Government holds out a threat of fresh taxation and thus seeks to silence them. This is very much to be deplored. Cannot Government come forward with funds for this purpose when the financial prospects of the Province are brightening up every day and the people are absolutely without resources to help themselves? The load of taxation already presses heavily on their shoulders. Is it good policy to compel their silence by threatening them with fresh taxation? We have often said that it is a serious dereliction of duty on the part of Government not to provide against scarcity of the drinking-water. It is a duty of Government to leave no stone unturned to save the lives of its people. We hope His Honour, Mr. Bourdillon, will listen to the piercing cries of the people for water.

PRATIJA,  
April 15th, 1903.

30. The *Pratiya* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says: Babu Baney Madhab Mukhopadhyaya is the owner of house No. 28 in Sikdarpara, Kalighat. A municipal drain adjoins the house. Filth and mire five to six feet deep has

A filthy municipal drain in Kalighat.

accumulated in this drain. The Municipality was repeatedly asked to cleanse this drain, but to no effect. The Municipal Overseer was also approached for the purpose by the owner of the house, who pointed out that the foundation of his wall was being damaged; but this also was to no effect. Now the other day



the water-tap in the house got a little out of order, and as a consequence, water was dropping from it. Upon this, a notice was served on the owner of the house by the Municipality, calling upon him to set the tap in order within 24 hours of the receipt of the notice, on pain of the water-connection being cut off! Of course, the order was soon complied with. But, what shall we say of the conduct of the Municipal authorities who took so little time to get a slight defect in a tap removed, while months and months are passing away without anything being done towards the cleansing of the filthy drain, so injurious to the health of the inmates of the house and the neighbourhood.

31. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th April says that whereas Rs. 1,900 are required for latrine service in the Bankura Municipality, the latrine-tax was assessed so as to yield Rs. 3,147 a year. The rate-payers prayed for a remission. A Sub-Committee was appointed and they recommended that the assessment might well be so reduced as to yield an income of Rs. 2446. But the Municipal Commissioners said they could not accept this recommendation without the District Magistrate's sanction. But why should the Magistrate be consulted at all in such a matter? The rate-payers appeal to the District Magistrate for justice.

BANKURA  
DARPAN.  
April 16th, 1903.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says that last year the Calcutta Municipality paid Rs. 16,280 to its Commissioners as allowances. But what work did these paid Commissioners do that was not done by the old unpaid Commissioners? This large sum would have been far better spent in improving the sanitary condition of the northern quarter of the town. Had the Municipality any care for the poor rate-payer's money, one would never have heard of paid Commissioners.

HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1903.

33. The same paper says that mishaps frequently occur on account of small-pox vaccinators not taking proper precaution at the time of vaccinating little children. Again, the practice of vaccinating with serum from tubes does not appear to be a safe one, because the ordinary vaccinator is too ignorant to detect anything wrong existing in the serum in a tube. Recently a child was vaccinated in Cornwallis Square, Calcutta, but the vaccinator did not mark that the child's teething time was very near. The child got high fever and the vaccination was not successful. After four days the child was taken to the vaccinator, who vaccinated it again. The fever increased and the child died. The doctor who attended the child in its last moments said that death was caused by vaccination done at teething time. The child was vaccinated with serum from a tube. The suspicion therefore naturally arises that there was something wrong in the serum which killed it.

HITAVADI.

34. The same paper says that on the 11th March last when passing the Budget Estimates of the Calcutta Municipality for 1903-1904, the Municipal Commissioners saw that there would be a surplus of 8 lakhs and 72 thousand rupees in the Municipal treasury on the 1st April following. But it is a matter of great wonder that before the month of March had expired the Chairman of the Municipality had to make a loan of four lakhs of rupees on hand-note in order to pay to contractors. What has become of the above nine lakhs? Endless are the frolics of the new Calcutta Municipality. Under what law, again, did the Chairman make the loan?

HITAVADI.

35. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 17th April does not see how the working-classes will be benefited by the contemplated model *bustees* like that constructed by Babu Sita Nath Rai at Bhowanipur. These people earn, say, four annas per day, and that is hardly sufficient for two full meals. Will they be able to pay higher rent than what they pay now?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 17th, 1903.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April publishes the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI  
April 17th, 1903.

Railway complaints.  
(1) One Baren Datta writes from Baraset that recently at the Dum-Dum Cantonment station on the Bengal Central Railway



a number of coolies having tried to pack the compartment on which he was travelling he called the Station-master to prevent their doing so. But the Station-master behaved most rudely and improperly with him and allowed the coolies to travel in the compartment. On arriving at the Dattapukur station the correspondent wired the matter to the Agent of the Railway Company, but received no reply. Many reminders have since been sent to the Agent, but none of them has been able to elicit a reply from that officer.

(2) A correspondent writes from Bankura that a few days ago 13 bags of brass utensils arrived at the Bankura railway station on the Bengal-Nagpur line to the address of Babu Prasanna Kumar Karmakar. In taking delivery of the bags Prasanna Babu suspected one of them to have been tampered with and wished to have it reweighed. On the Station-master's objecting to reweighing he left the bag in the station, and reported the matter to the railway authorities, but to no effect. Two weeks after he sent a man to take delivery of the bag. On that day the Traffic Inspector of the line was in the station. He had the bag weighed and found that it weighed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  seers more than the recorded weight. But on opening the bag a number of stones weighing  $9\frac{1}{2}$  seers were found in it. Prasanna Babu had suffered similar losses twice before. Other traders also frequently suffer similar losses. But the railway authorities do nothing in the matter.

(3) One Naba Kumar Datta writes from Haldibari that on the 7th April last Abinas Chandra Mukherji, ticket-collector at the Parbatipur station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, demanded an illegal gratification from him in order to allow his luggage to pass unweighed. But on his refusing to pay it the ticket-collector made such unnecessary delay in weighing the luggage that the train in which he intended to travel whistled off the moment he was given a receipt for it, and he had to wait for many hours in the station before he could avail himself of another train. The attention of the District Traffic Superintendent, Saidpur, is drawn to the matter.

(h)—General.

SANJIVANI,  
April 16th, 1903

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 16th April says:—

Mr. Bourdillon on the amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam.

The following appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 25th February:—

"The Hon'ble Maulavi Seraz-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur, said:—

Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council whether it is true that the Chittagong Division will, from 1st April 1903, be amalgamated with the Province of Assam? If so, will the Government kindly state the reasons that have induced them to order the transfer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson replied:—

The Lieutenant-Governor has no information as to any such proposal having been made since this question was discussed six years ago."

This assured the public that the rumour of an amalgamation of the Chittagong Division was wholly false. But recently in replying to the Chittagong District Board's address Mr. Bourdillon said:—

"Lastly there remains the point which was mentioned in the address of the District Board, the possibility of the transfer of this Division to Assam. On this matter, however, I am quite unable to make any pronouncement. To the question asked by your representative in the Bengal Council I was obliged to say that no such proposal is before Government, but it is an undoubted fact that rumours of such a transfer are in the air, and that the demands of conjecture may assume a concrete shape before long. One of my chief objects in visiting Chittagong now is to inform myself as to the views and feelings of the community on the subject, so that I may be in a position to say what that opinion is in the event of a discussion on the subject arising. I notice as a significant fact that the question instead of being scouted as unreasonable is now recognised as being one on which it is possible for sensible men to hold opposite opinions, and whatever may be the ultimate result I can promise you that when the proposal is made it will be examined with care and from every point of view, since the decision is fraught with some consequences to the trade of the port and the prosperity and happiness of the whole division."



This has taken the people aback. What a regret that even a Lieutenant-Governor should say one thing at one time and quite another thing at another time!

38. The same paper writes as follows:—

Indians in the Railway and  
Telegraph Departments.

The following letter has been received by  
the Superintendents of the Telegraph Department:—

SANJIVANI.  
April 16th, 1903.

"FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS,  
TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, ————— DIVISION.

*Dated Calcutta, the 20th March 1903.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to request that you will please take early steps with a view to obtaining candidates suitable for training as signallers. Owing to the proportion of natives to the non-natives at present employed in the Signalling Establishment being much in excess of the percentage approved by Government, European or Eurasian candidates should for the present be examined.

2.	*	*	*	*	*	*
3.	*	*	*	*	*	*
4.	*	*	*	*	*	*

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

S. H. C. HUTCHINSON."

Everyone sees which way the wind is blowing. The Secretary of the Railway Department of the Government of India has issued a circular for a much larger employment of Europeans and Eurasians on railways, and the Director-General of Telegraphs also issues a similar order in the above letter. Almost all the big posts in India are in the hands of Europeans and Eurasians. Only a small number of Indians are earning their mite by serving in small posts in the Railway and Telegraph Departments, but the authorities are trying to drive them away from these also. We humbly ask every official if this be just and honourable.

39. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 16th April says:—

The question of the transfer of  
the Chittagong Division to Assam.

We learn on inquiry that several native members of the District Board of Chittagong signed the address to the Lieutenant-Governor without

reading it at all, nor did they then know that it contained anything regarding the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam. The Board consists of the Magistrate's nominees, and therefore we do not think that it has a right to present an address on behalf of the cess-payers, or to represent their views. Hence it is that the Board's opinion can never be accepted as the opinion of the people. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, in reply to the Board's address, said that one of his objects in visiting Chittagong was to ascertain the views of the people of Chittagong in regard to the question of including the Chittagong Division in Assam. But it is very much to be regretted that we are not aware of his having done anything to ascertain those views. If His Honour thinks that the Board's address represents the views of the people, he is mistaken. We know a foremost nobleman of the Chittagong district applied to the District Magistrate for an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor; but the application was rejected, though similar applications from several other persons were granted. This nobleman is a leader of the educated community, and is well-known for his wealth, respectability and high position in society; and everyone greatly regrets that he was disallowed an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor. Perhaps, His Honour

JYOTI;  
April 16th, 1903.



himself is not aware of this. Some say the Magistrate feared lest he should inform the Lieutenant-Governor that the people of the Chittagong district did not look with favour upon the idea of the district being incorporated with Assam, and hence the refusal.

The Board's address urged two points in favour of the transfer :—

(1) That it will be the only port in Assam and thus its improvement will be rapid ; and (2) that, Chittagong being reputed to be unhealthy and situated at a great distance from the capital city, the rulers of Bengal have not shown much inclination to visit it often. Now, as to the first point, we very much doubt if poor Assam will be able to spend so much as wealthy Bengal can to improve the port of Chittagong. As to the second, Chittagong is certainly not more unhealthy than the malaria-stricken parts of Bengal. As to the benefits from the visits of Lieutenant-Governors, if the present visit be considered, there has been no benefit at all, and there can be no benefit from gubernatorial visits if the people are not permitted to speak out their complaints and grievances.

HITAVADI.  
April 17th, 1903.

40. Referring to the surpluses which have been announced by the Government of India in the last Financial Statement, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April writes as follows :—

The surpluses announced in the last Financial Statement.

Surpluses are no doubt desirable in the accounts of the Government of a prosperous country, but nothing can be more deplorable than surpluses secured from the life-blood of the famine-stricken inhabitants of a poor country like India. The surpluses of the Government of India were secured in years of scarcity, and from the revenues yielded by the salt-tax and the new currency system. This is not to the credit of the Finance Minister. He has himself admitted that the decrease in the expenditure was mainly due to accidental causes—the decrease under the army service was mainly due to the absence of a large number of troops in South Africa, &c. It remains to be considered whether any portion of the surpluses was due to any noble attempt made by the Government to curtail expenditure. No, it was not. Government made no attempt to curtail expenditure, and the credit of securing the surpluses cannot therefore belong to it. On the contrary, it was, we believe, ready to bear some expenditure which were unjustly sought to be imposed on India. Such were the Coronation expenses in connection with the Indian princes in England and the expenses of the India Office Darbar, both of which would have been saddled on India had the question been left to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Lordship the State Secretary for final decision. Again, Sir Edward Law says:—"Land revenue which constitutes nearly one-fourth of our total resources is naturally directly dependent upon the course of the season, and indirectly the same factor affects returns from Salt, Excise and Customs." Thus, both the increase of revenue and decrease of expenditure which have been announced in the Financial statement were due to accidental circumstances, Government having done nothing to bring them about. And in this matter Government was in the condition of a piece of straw in a powerful current of water ; that is to say, it allowed itself to be carried in whatever direction the current of events flowed. If it was at last thrown on a prosperous shore, it was only its great good fortune and not a result secured by any laudable efforts of its own.

The Finance Minister's statement that the course of the season indirectly affects returns from Salt, Excise and Customs deserves serious consideration. "Customs revenue too," says the Hon'ble Member, "depending so largely on the importation of cotton goods, imported chiefly for the use of the peasantry, are affected by the conditions which make or mar their prosperity." This shows that in the opinion of the Financial Member, the Indian peasant's material condition depends on variations in rainfall, however small, and this is indirect proof that his economic condition is really deplorable. And yet in summing up the Budget figures the Hon'ble Member remarked that the economic progress of Indians was satisfactory. Who will solve this riddle ?

In our opinion the surpluses announced by the Finance Minister are fictitious and not real surpluses. It is only the accountant's skill and the charm of the new currency system which have raised the phenomenon: the surpluses resulted from the computation of the rupee as a fraction of a pound.



If it is not so, why is the Government so much afraid of the future in spite of the large surpluses in its hand? Why are plaintive notes heard in the midst of a prosperity budget? Why can it not make large remissions of taxes.

The Financial statement announces surpluses amounting to more than eleven and-a-half crores of rupees for the last two years and a prospective surplus of nearly one and-a-half crores for the current year. And yet a permanent debt of more than three crores of rupees will have to be incurred to pay off a temporary debt of two crores and twenty-five lakhs of rupees and a permanent debt of one crore and three and-a-half lakhs of rupees. It is strange political economy to substitute a permanent debt for a temporary debt, and that at a time when the coffers of the State are full to overflowing. Did not the Finance Member know that a liquidation of the temporary debt from the surplus money would have saved the Government from annually paying a large amount of interest? What is the object of saddling the country with a debt in the face of large surpluses? Again, one and-a-half crores of the proposed loan will be raised in England. Alas! the poor Indians will never be saved from the sterling debt! The real cause of the currency scandal will not be removed, and yet Government desires to earn the blessings of Indians for its follies. When will true political economy be preached in India?

41. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th April has the following in its English columns:—

"Indians not wanted."

PEOPLE AND  
PRATIVASI,  
April 18th, 1903.

"The *Sanjibani* has just unearthed a circular letter from the Director-General to the Superintendent, Government Telegraphs, in which the latter are enjoined not to appoint any more Indians to the signalling department, there being already too many there. There was lately some agitation in the Press against the hard usage to which Indian signallers are systematically subjected by the authorities. They get all the kicks and buffets, whilst the loaves and fishes invariably fall to the share of their European brethren. And the result of the agitation so far from tending to their advantage, has led to the doors of the signalling establishment being shut in their face with a bang. The authorities may be ever so anxious to respect public opinion in this country, but they seem far more anxious to respect the scriptural doctrine which says in effect that to those who have much, more will be given, whilst from those who have little, will be taken away the little which they have. The *Indian Mirror* is at times wont to take credit to itself for its being able to influence the policy that rules the counsels of the Empire. Here is a typical instance to show how by taking up the cudgels on behalf of the long suffering Indian signallers, our contemporary has been able to influence the policy by which the powers that be, are wont to regulate their conduct. It was only the other day that in noticing the answer returned in the Viceroy's Legislative Council to an interpellation on the subject of the proposed employment of Europeans and Eurasians to every appointment in the railway service carrying a monthly salary of Rs. 30 and upwards, we had occasion to point out that the game against the natives of the soil was being played a trifle too low. The Government tried to absolve itself from all blame in the connection by saying that it had not given its assent to the iniquity which was being sought to be perpetrated at the expense of the children of the soil and in utter defiance of the canons of justice and fair play, but responsible officers of Government—including a departmental secretary, if we remember aright—were the initiators and promoters of the whole scheme, and they could not very well have acted without warrant in such a matter. The reply of the Government was no doubt technically correct, but we knew that in their heart of hearts they were favourably disposed towards the proposal. And before the bad taste which that none too savoury controversy left in the mouth has well had time to subside *hi presto*, there crops up another case on all fours with the previous one. The Director-General justifies his anti-Indian circular on the ground that the proportion of Indian to non-Indian signallers is much in excess of the percentage approved by Government. Could it be that he took the name of Government in vain? The rule of thumb may be the prevailing mode in the official world. But we find it rather hard to believe that appointments should be regulated not by the sole test of merit, but by the rules of percentage and



by considerations of race. The Government of India is now "out of humanity's reach" and we cannot buttonhole them in regard to this matter, and get them to explain it away after their usual happy-go-lucky fashion. But if the circular under notice be not an impudent fabrication, all that we can say is that some of our rulers are resolved to throw justice to the four winds and fly in the face of common propriety and fairness."

BANGAVASI,  
April 18th, 1903.

42. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th April writes as follows:—

Race distinction in the Telegraph Department.

Owing to want of training, enterprise and capital, the great bulk of the middle class in this country earn their living by service, and of all services Government service is the most valuable to them. Whenever therefore the doors of that service are closed against them to any extent, they feel utterly helpless.

In certain departments of Government—in the Salt, Forest, Excise, Public Works and Telegraph Departments, for instance—the number of European and Eurasian employes is gradually increasing, while the number of native employes is gradually decreasing. The other day there was held on the Darbar grounds at Delhi a meeting of certain railway officers—a meeting which was attended by some Government officials also—with the main object of securing to Europeans and Eurasians the largest number of appointments in that department carrying salaries exceeding Rs. 30. Complaints of undue partiality shown to Europeans and Eurasians in the Telegraph Department are also heard.

There are in that department two scales known respectively by the names of "Local" and "General" scales. The salaries of the first of these two scales range from Rs. 27 (lately raised to Rs. 35) to Rs. 60, while those of the second range from Rs. 40 to Rs. 90. Of the 1,541 officers in the latter scale, only 53 are natives. The work done by the officers in the "Local" scale is similar to that done by those in the "General" scale, and yet several officers in the Telegraph Department are trying to exclude natives from the latter scale. In a letter No. 1814, dated the 19th August 1892, Mr. Arthur Hulla, Superintendent of the Rajputana Division, informed the Sub-Assistant Superintendent of the Agra office that it was the order of the Director-General that natives should not be drafted from the "Local" to the "General" scale, and that the salaries were larger in the latter scale, because living for European and Eurasian officers was dearer. Now there is no order of the Government of India which authorises the making of any distinction between natives and Europeans in that department. The grounds for excluding natives from the "General" scale, as stated by some officers, are that natives are unwilling to go to distant places and that they are not competent enough to do the work done in the "General" scale. But neither of these grounds will hold water, for, as a matter of fact, native employes in the "Local" scale are required, by the conditions of their service, to serve in such distant places as Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces and a portion of Assam. Why again have native employes prayed so repeatedly for transfer to the "General" scale if they are unwilling to serve in distant places? Then when native employes are now, from time to time, drafted to the "General" scale in emergencies, which presuppose overwhelming pressure of work, they are found to work very satisfactorily. Why those who acquit themselves creditably when the pressure of work is so heavy should be incompetent to do the work in ordinary times, is more than what we can understand. At the Delhi Durbar many natives served in the "General" scale along with Europeans and Eurasians. Let Lord Curzon enquire whether the natives did not work better than the Europeans and the Eurasians on that occasion.

Again, the European and Eurasian Telegraph officers who worked at Delhi during the Durbar, have obtained the daily allowance of Rs. 2 sanctioned in letter No. 3021.—E., dated the 5th March 1902, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department to the Director-General of Telegraphs. But the native Telegraph officers have not yet received that allowance.

It is hoped that Lord Curzon will judge these matters impartially and do away with race distinction in the Telegraph Department.



43. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 20th April says:—

DACCA GAZETTE,  
April 20th, 1903.

The question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

The other day, in reply to a question in the Bengal Legislative Council regarding the question of the incorporation of the Chittagong Division in Assam, the Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson said:—"The Lieutenant-Governor has no information as to any such proposal having been made since this question was discussed six years ago." The people of Chittagong felt rather re-assured at this reply. The other day, however, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in replying to an address from the Chittagong District Board, distinctly said that one of the objects of his visit to Chittagong was to ascertain the views of the people on the question of the incorporation of the Chittagong Division in Assam. People are really alarmed at this.

44. In noticing the appointment of Mr. Muddiman, Joint-Magistrate of

PRATIJNA,  
April 22nd, 1903.

Mr. Muddiman as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Alipur, as an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April sarcastically alludes to his misdoings in Alipur, viz., sending an innocent man named

Dukhi Sardar, a plaintiff in a case, to *hajjat*, and postponing cases to Sunday, and afterwards criminally prosecuting complainants for failure to attend Court, and says that such a man may one day adorn the *musnud* of Bengal.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

45. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th April writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,  
April 18th, 1903.

The Government Resolution on the report of the Famine Commission.

In a recent resolution the Government of India has expressed its desire to extend to all relief works the principle recommended by the Famine Commission of controlling admission to relief works in "scarcity" districts only. This principle of refusing relief to those who are not entirely destitute of all means of livelihood will, if carried out, do injustice to many poor men. It is very difficult to ascertain the real condition of a person, even after careful enquiry, and a relief officer may not, in addition, take pains to institute a sifting enquiry into his case. Again, all relief officers may not possess the necessary amount of local knowledge. It is true that the Government of India has ruled, by way of precaution, that "selection should not be attempted unless there is a sufficient staff with local knowledge \* \* \*," but it is very difficult to make out, in every case, whether or not an officer does possess local knowledge. With so many difficulties around it, the "system of personal selection" ought not to be introduced. In order that the system may work without difficulty, it has been ruled that "selection \* \* \* should be confined to those who live within a distance of four miles from the work." This unequal treatment of those who live within the prescribed distance and of those who live beyond it, will be an injustice to the former. If a really needy man is refused by mistake or otherwise, what will the poor creature do? Government says that there will be relief works to which every one will be admitted. But will such relief works be opened in every "scarcity" or "famine" place? Again, the principle of admitting by selection in one sort of relief work and admitting without selection in another sort of relief work in one and the same place, seems to be quite inexplicable to us. So far as we know, people do not seek relief so long as they can do without it. We therefore fear that the system of selection will be the cause of the death of many a hungry famine-stricken person.

Again, it is not at all right to rigidly lay down the rule that none but those who have come to the end of their resources should get admission to relief works. Suppose a man has a family of six to maintain, and he has means for three only, would it be right to prevent him from earning his own livelihood by doing relief work.

We fully approve of His Excellency's decision in abolishing differences between male and female wages. But we object to the use of cooked food as a means of relief, because (1) there are low-class Hindus who do not take food cooked by others, and (2) food cooked in large quantities is not properly cooked, and is therefore unwholesome, indigestive food which brings on disease.



## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA.  
April 15th, 903.

46. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—

The Viceroy's passion for inquiry. The Viceroy has a very strong passion for inquiry. He has appointed several Commissions for making inquiries. In his Budget speech, referring to the opposition of the people of India to the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the Viceroy remarked: "I have even learned in this country a new and captivating doctrine, viz., that it is considered a mistake in some quarters to enquire at all." Now we dare say this is no new lesson for the Viceroy; for, when the "Indian Famine Union" of London memorialised the Secretary of State for India for an inquiry into the condition of India, it was Lord Curzon who raised various objections to the making of such an inquiry. Then, what has been the result of all these inquiries undertaken by the Commissions? Who can say that the result will be beneficial to India?

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

47. The same paper says:—The Bengal Landholders' Association

Absentee landlords and their responsibility in the matter of reporting riots.

memorialised the Viceroy for exonerating absentee zamindars from the obligation imposed on them in the law to report to the nearest police any riots which occur within their zamindaris, on pain of

punishment. The Viceroy, in reply, has said that he sees no necessity for altering the law; for, there should be no difficulty in reporting riots, if zamindars employed competent managers, and the zamindars would neglect their duty if they did not appoint competent men as managers. Now, we ask if Government servants are held answerable, or are punished for any riots which occur in the khas mahals? And to stretch the point a little further, when people are subjected to unnecessary hardship and loss on account of judicial and magisterial vagaries, are those, who appointed those Judges and Magistrates, held responsible or punished for the wrong done?

SANJIVANI,  
April 16th, 1903.

48. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 16th April approves of the decisions arrived at by the Government in the Budh-Gaya question.

The Budh-Gaya question.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 17th, 1903.

49. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says:—Shams-ul-

Shams-ul-alkha Shaikh Mahmud Jilani.

alkha Shaikh Mahmud Jilani is a foremost Persian scholar in India. He is a native of Jilan, in Persia. In October 1880, he was given an appoint-

ment under the Board of Examiners on a salary of Rs. 250 per month; and since then he has been discharging his duties to the satisfaction of the Board. Recently he suffered from rheumatism, and lost the use of his legs. He, however, attends to his work regularly, and comes to his place of business in a *palki*. We regret to notice that he has been asked by Government to retire on pension. Now, service for two years more will entitle him to a full pension; while his retirement at the present moment will entitle him to a much less amount. In many cases Government has allowed even five years' extension to its deserving officers. May we not, in consideration of the Shams-ul-alkha's Arabic and Persian scholarship, pray that Government will be pleased to allow him to continue in service for two years more, in order to entitle him to a full pension?

HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1903.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon on the Delhi Darbar expenses.

Lord Curzon has made himself ridiculous by trying to define the Delhi Darbar expenses in his last Budget speech. His Excellency has said that the

Darbar cost only 27 lakhs of rupees. But what of the 25 lakhs by which the incomes of the Post and Telegraph Departments were increased on account of the Darbar? Were they not Indians who paid these 25 lakhs? Again, it would have been only just and fair for His Excellency to compare the average income of an Indian with that of an Englishman when he compared the population of India with that of England. His Excellency has asked:—"Had a similar sum never been spent upon an Indian marriage?" If we spend large sums of money in *srads* and marriages, officials never forget to censure us for so doing. But if His Excellency says that such expenses are mere waste of money whilst the Darbar expenses were of a useful nature, we have nothing to say. Again,



the Viceroy has said in a taunting tone that "the sum is only about one-seventh part of the relief which we are going to give, not once, but in each succeeding year, to the Indian people by our relief of taxation." The Finance Minister did not say any such thing; nor did His Excellency say this when dwelling on the subject of the relief of taxation. If there had been no large surpluses out of the revenues of the State in the last few years, would the Government of India have given the relief to the Indian people? As a matter of fact, it was only because the Darbar was held at a time when happily surpluses were being secured that His Excellency was able to express himself in that manner.

51. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 20th April says:—In replying to the address of the Chittagong Association, the Lieutenant-Governor said that he had nothing particular to say; in fact, the address "asked for nothing."

DACCA GAZETTE,  
April 20th, 1903.

The Chittagong Association's address to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Referring to this, the *Jyoti* of Chittagong observes:—"We have come to know that the Chittagong Association's address had contained important topics, but that the District Magistrate had them expunged. What are these addresses and assemblies good for if the people are not to make known their complaints and grievances to their Governor?" We would earnestly request the District Magistrate to disprove the correctness of this allegation made against him. We do not think such addresses serve any useful purpose.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

52. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 4th April states that the days are becoming warmer day by day, and that though clouds appear in the sky there is no rain. The

UTKALDIPKA,  
April 4th, 1903.

The weather in Orissa.

*Garjalbasini* [Talcher] of the 4th April states that there was a heavy shower of rain accompanied with storm and hailstones in that State.

53. The former paper is sorry to learn that some persons died of plague in the Largara and Jajpur parganas of the Cuttack district, and that they had brought the disease from Calcutta. Though these isolated cases did not

UTKALDIPKA.

Deaths from plague in the Cuttack district.

prove contagious, the writer fears that unless vigorous steps are taken to prevent plague-infected arrivals in future, the disease may spread in the districts of Orissa, which are now free from it.

54. The same paper mourns the death of Sir Richard Garth who, as Chief Justice of Bengal, had maintained the reputation of the Calcutta High Court for justice and judicial independence and who, after his retirement from India, was always ready to help the Indians when their interests were at stake.

UTKALDIPKA.

The death of Sir Richard Garth mourned.

55. Referring to the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, delivered in the Indian Legislative Council on the 27th of the last month, the same paper admires the spirit in which it was delivered and hopes that some good will at last come out of it.

UTKALDIPKA.

The Viceroy's Budget speech.

56. The same paper is of opinion that Bhuvaneswar in the Puri district is rising in importance, and that the branch post-office, which is equipped with a single peon, is

UTKALDIPKA.

A postal representation.

unable to serve 180 villages with any degree of satisfaction. The writer therefore proposes the conversion of the branch office into a sub-office with an increased number of peons, and hopes that the attention of the higher postal authorities and of Government will be drawn to the subject.

57. Referring to the speech of the Secretary of State in the British Parliament, favouring the maintenance of an autocratic form of Government in India, the same paper observes that such Government is opposed to the

UTKALDIPKA.

Lord George Hamilton and the form of the Indian Government.

principles of the British constitution and should therefore be replaced by a form of Government, favouring the principles of local self-government as far as that may be practicable.

58. Referring to the semi-official conference held at Delhi with the object of encouraging the employment of Eurasians and

UTKALDIPKA.

The Delhi Railway Conference.

Anglo-Indians in Railway and other departments, the same paper is sorry to observe that high officers of Government should be so careless as to betray their bias towards one section of the community at the sacrifice of the interests of another section of that community and thereby



invite reprisal and hostile criticism. The writer regrets that such an indiscreet movement should have taken place during the viceroyalty of an impartial statesman like Lord Curzon.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
April 4th, 1903.

59. The same paper has strong reasons to believe that the road-cess revaluation in the Cuttack district was managed in a perfunctory manner without much regard to the rules framed by the Board of Revenue on the subject. This is evidenced by the results of two appeals that came before the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, both of which were decreed against the revaluation officer and by the fact that, while there was an increase of road-cess by 3 per cent. in the Puri district, there was a corresponding increase of that cess by 20 per cent. in the Cuttack district. The writer is of opinion that the *bajiafti lakhirajdars* of Cuttack have not been fairly dealt with and it is necessary that their *jamabandi* should be revised by a competent officer, even though the procedure be costly.

GARJATBASINI,  
April 4th, 1903.

60. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 4th April is sorry to notice that the wife of a ganda was murdered at mauza Bhaluki in Bardesh in killa Pal Lahara and that her mutilated body was found in a jungle near mauza Barkalopal. The police have not as yet been able to arrest the offenders.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
April 2nd, 1903.

61. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 2nd April is sorry to find that petty thefts are increasing in number in the Balasore town, and it is necessary that the town chaukidars should always remain on the alert.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,

62. Referring to the methods which many tenants in the Balasore district are adopting to pay back the amounts that they borrowed from the Collector under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the same paper finds ample material to moralise that the tenants are sunk deep in poverty and that they can hardly pay back the amounts that they borrowed from the Collector without selling their food stock or cattle, and that they would have borrowed money at easier rates from the village money-lenders, if the latter had power to realise their dues in the manner the Collector is doing under the law.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
April 1st, 1903.

63. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 1st April states that there was a heavy shower of rain accompanied with hailstones in the Balasore district. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 9th April makes a similar statement. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 11th April states that the days are hot and the nights cool.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
April 9th, 1903.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
April 11th, 1903.

GARJATBASINI,  
April 11th, 1903.

64. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 11th April is sorry to state that several persons have died of cholera in the Solapada part of the Talcher State.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
April 9th, 1903.

Fever in Balasore town.

of a few deaths in the Balasore town.

GARJATBASINI,  
April 11th, 1903.

The mango crop in the Talcher State.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
April 11th, 1903.

65. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 9th April states that high fever has been the cause of a few deaths in the Balasore town.

66. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 11th April is sorry to note that the mango crop has failed in the Talcher State.

67. Referring to the reduction in the salt-tax, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 11th April observes that the reduction should have been one rupee per maund so as to relieve the actual consumer in an appreciable degree.

UTKALDIPIKA.

68. The same paper regrets to note that injudicious police action has been a cause of grievance to the public in Cuttack. The police stopped the music of the *Mustan Tazia* during the last *Muharram* festival and a rising wave of disaffection was luckily arrested by the intervention of the Commissioner, who was then at his headquarters. The writer points out that the Cuttack public have found good reason to be dissatisfied with the local police, and their constant attempt to interfere with music on festive occasions have met with opposition in all quarters. The writer seems to think that the present District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, is at the bottom of all these troubles.



## ASSAM PAPERS.

69. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 12th April says: We hear that in

Mr. Cammiade, Subdivisional  
Officer of Maulvi Bazar in Sylhet  
district.

the last week of March two value-payable parcels, addressed to Mr. Cammiade, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, reached the post-office. On their being duly forwarded to Mr. Cammiade, he received

PARIDARSAK,  
April 12th, 1903.

one, but refused the other. Accordingly the refused parcel was returned to the sender. Two days after, Mr. Cammiade sent for the parcel and was informed that it had already been duly returned to the sender. Mr. Cammiade got enraged at this and sent word through his *syce* to the postmaster to come to his bungalow. He pleaded want of time and pressure of work, and said he would turn up soon. Mr. Cammiade got furiously enraged at this and sent Sub-Inspector, Babu Paramananda Chakravarti, with a constable and the *syce* to bring the postmaster to his bungalow. When the post-master came he was asked by Mr. Cammiade in a very rude manner why the parcel had been returned to the sender. The postmaster replied that he could not answer the question without referring to the Registrar of the post-office. Upon this Mr. Cammiade used abusive language towards the postmaster and threatened to report him to the Postmaster-General. We would request Government to make an enquiry into the matter.

70. The same paper has the following in English:—

The Manager, Mirtinga Tea  
Estate, Sylhet.

We did not expect that Mr. Peter should figure so soon again in the columns of our paper. It is not long since we wrote in these columns something about his eccentricities. But we now find that he is simply incorrigible. The reports that have of late reached our ears about his inhuman treatment towards the coolies of his garden cannot but evoke great indignation in the heart of everyone. Some 83 coolies of the garden went to Mr. Cammiade, the Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, to lay before him their grievances. The Subdivisional Officer passed the following order:—

PARIDARSAK.

“The coolies are directed to go back to the garden and to work. Their complaints will be enquired into.”

But the coolies not being satisfied with the order of the Subdivisional Officer and thinking quite naturally that it would not be safe for them to slip again into the clutches of the infuriated manager came to Mr. J. C. Arbuthnot, the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, to represent their grievances. The Deputy Commissioner passed the following order.

“Ram Sarup and some 80 coolies have come to complain. They have been directed to return to the garden where the Subdivisional Officer will enquire into their complaints.”

The coolies make various complaints against Mr. Peter. We propose to publish in these columns only a few instances of the alleged ill-treatment of the coolies by Mr. Peter, and beg to draw the attention of the administrative authorities in view of a searching enquiry into the matter:—

- (a) The coolies are not properly paid. They are subjected to very hard work;
- (b) the coolies are often put in the pound in the garden intended for stray beasts and confined there with beasts till late hours at night by way of punishment for violation of any garden rule or for their inability to perform daily work owing to their indisposition;
- (c) One Sambar Pachi and the wife of one Bhujpal died in the garden and their relations were not allowed to inter the dead bodies according to their custom. It is said that the corpses were bound hand and foot and carried like carcasses of animals and thrown into a jungle where they were devoured by vultures and jackals;
- (d) whenever any coolie sells his movables, he is compelled to deposit the sale-proceeds with the manager as a safeguard against his escape.



PARIDARSAK,  
April 12th, 1903.

71. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 12th April says that, although the number of pupils in the Silchar Government High School is now three times as large as before, the tutorial staff practically remains the same, only one additional teacher having been appointed two years ago. Three or four classes are so overcrowded that in the interest of proper tuition and discipline it is essential that they should be divided into sections. This will necessitate the appointment of at least two more teachers, and one more Pandit. Then those Entrance candidates who take up Bengali as their second language have no one to teach them that subject. This want ought to be at once removed.

SILCHAR,  
April 13th, 1903.

72. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 13th April says that friends and relations of the clerks of the Silchar Local Board work as contractors under the Board. This is not fair.

SILCHAR.

73. The same paper says that the boats at ferry ghats are supplied by the Local Board, but the *ijardar* is held responsible for their loss or damage. The other day the ferry-boat at the Mathura (Rangpur) ghat got under water, and was subsequently lifted from water and landed at the cost of the Local Board. Now this is not fair. The *ijardar* should have paid for the operation.

SILCHAR.

74. The same paper referring to the notice in the *Assam Government Gazette* about the leasing out of lands on both banks of the Jatinga and the Dayangmukh tributary rivers, says it does not understand why tea-garden coolies are prevented from taking land. There may be good reason for the exclusion of coolies who are under contract; but why exclude those who have already served out their periods of contract? It is feared that if no such course is adopted, there will be a paucity of applicants for the lands.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 25th April, 1903.*

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*